

**U.S. Department of Education**

**Staff Report  
to the  
Senior Department Official  
on  
Recognition Compliance Issues**

<b>RECOMMENDATION PAGE</b>
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1. **Agency:** Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (1978/2007)

(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)

2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition

3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation of institutions of higher education throughout the United States that offer non-collegiate continuing education programs and those that offer occupational associate degree programs and those that offer such programs via distance education.

4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above

5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** June, 2013

6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for a period of five years.

7. **Issues or Problems:** None.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY**

The Accrediting Council on Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) is a national institutional accreditor. ACCET accredits institutions of higher education that provide continuing education and training programs, including those institutions that are authorized to award certificates and occupational associate degrees. The agency classifies educational programs as either continuing education “vocational” programs or continuing education “avocational” programs.

ACCET's accreditation enables some of the institutions it accredits to participate in the Department's student financial aid programs. When ACCET submitted its petition for continued recognition, it listed 229 accredited institutions. Of the accredited institutions, 81 vocational institutions are eligible to participate in Title IV programs. The agency classifies the remaining 148 accredited institutions as vocational/non-Title IV or avocational.

#### **Recognition History**

ACCET officially began accrediting agency operations in 1974 and first appeared on the list of agencies recognized by the Secretary in 1978. The agency's recognition has been periodically reviewed and continued recognition has been granted after each review. In December 2001, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI or the Committee) recommended, and the Secretary concurred, that the agency's scope of recognition be expanded to include the accreditation of institutions offering occupational associate degree programs including those programs offered via distance education. The last full review of the agency was conducted at the December 2007 NACIQI meeting. Department staff and the Committee both recommended, and the Secretary concurred, that the agency's recognition be renewed for five years.

Department staff observed a site visit at Focus Hope Information Technologies Center located in Detroit, Michigan from February 13 -14, 2013 in conjunction with the review of the agency's petition for recognition.

## **PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

## **PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS**

The Department did not receive any written third-party comments regarding this agency.